

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A rigid structure comprised of two halves, each having a scalloped arcuate grooves configured along the inner face of each of the two halves such that when the two halves are mated, parallel and spaced apertures are formed to hold a series of tubes in an aligned and fixed spaced relationship, ~~the tubes~~ each tube being fitted with a tube shields shield mounted ~~located~~ adjacent the two halves, and wherein the two halves are sized to overlap ~~portions~~ an adjacent portion of the tube shields ~~shield~~ thereby covering any gaps created therebetween.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which ~~the scalloped inner face each arcuate groove is formed with~~ includes a central portion ~~extending projecting~~ toward the tube ~~[[,]]~~ and a longitudinal end ~~portions~~ portion overlapping the adjacent portion of the tube shields shield.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The rigid structure according to claim 1, including ~~connecting clamping means between at least some of the spaced apertures to clamp for~~ securing the two halves around ~~the tubes~~ each tube and adjacent ~~portions~~ portion of the tube shields shield.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which the tube ~~shields are~~ shield is welded to each at least one of the two halves.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The rigid structure according to claim 1, in which a retainer shield covers the front end of the two halves, and the retainer shield is sized to overlap the adjacent portion of the tube ~~shields~~ shield.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The rigid structure according to claim 5, in which the retainer shield is welded to each at least one of the two halves.

Claim 7 (currently amended): In combination, a row of vertical lengths of essentially parallel tubes having a side periodically subjected to the action of a stream of blowing fluid cleaning medium, spaced upper and lower tube shields mounted on said side of each tube, a rigid structure disposed between the upper and lower tube shields and being comprised of two halves positioned on opposite sides of the tube row, each half having an inner face shaped with semicircular grooves such that when the two halves are mated, parallel and spaced apertures are formed to hold the tubes in an aligned and fixed spaced relationship, and wherein the two halves are sized to overlap adjacent portions of the tube shields thereby covering any gaps ~~exposing~~ created therebetween that would expose said side of each tube to the action of the fluid cleaning medium.

AMENDMENT

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Claim 8 (currently amended): The combination according to claim 7, in which the inner face is formed with a central portion ~~extending~~ projecting toward the tubes, and longitudinal end portions overlapping the adjacent portions of the tube shields.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The combination according to claim 7, including ~~connecting clamping means between at least some of the spaced apertures to clamp for~~ securing the two halves around the tubes and adjacent portions of the tube shields.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The combination according to claim 7, in which the tube shields are welded to ~~each~~ at least one of the two halves.

Claim 11 (original): The combination according to claim 7, in which a retainer shield covers the front end of the two halves, and the retainer shield is sized to overlap the adjacent portions of the tube shields.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The combination according to claim 11, in which the retainer shield is welded to ~~each~~ at least one of the two halves.